

Serial No.: 09/943,859
Group Art Unit: 2652

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 4, 9, 13, 14, 18, and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With regard to claims 13 and 18, Gill fails to show the claimed combination that includes the hard magnet formed around and in contact with a first gap spacer.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 to include the allowable subject matter from claims 13 and 18.

Claims 13 and 18 have been canceled.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, and 17 have been amended to conform to the rewriting of the independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16.

Based on the above, it is now believed that claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-12, and 16-17 are allowable as depending from allowable base claims.

The Examiner objected to claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 are now believed to be allowable as depending from respective claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, which contain allowable subject matter from claims 13 and 18.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15-17, and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Gill (USPN 6,606,781).

Based on the amendments to claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are now moot.

Serial No.: 09/943,859
Group Art Unit: 2652

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103

Claims 3, 5, 8, and 10 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gill (USPN 6,606,781) in view of Khan et al (USPN 6,495,311).

Based on the amendments to claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested. Allowance of claims 1-12, 14-17, and 19-20 at an early date is solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including any extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0374 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



William D. Zahrt II
Registration No. 26,070

The Law Offices of Mikio Ishimaru
1110 Sunnyvale-Saratoga Rd., Suite A1
Sunnyvale, CA 94087
Telephone: (408) 738-0592
Fax: (408) 738-0881
Date: June 23, 2005